

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Baltic)

SUBJECT Soviet Navy Units at Klaipeda
25X1A

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DATE OF
INFO

1. Berths for speedboat-like vessels were on the east bank of the Dange River between two road bridges at Klaipeda (55-43N, 21-07E).*

a. [REDACTED] observed 6 to 10 motorboats berthed alongside the quay.

b. In October 1948 [REDACTED] about 20 boats of the same type berthed there.

c. The boats were 66 to 82 feet long with raking stem, square stern aside from a flat conning tower, no particular superstructures in the forward third of the boat's length, engine room skylights extending over the middle third of the boat's length. Forward of the conning tower and aft of the engine room skylights was an AA gun with an estimated caliber of 37 mm. [REDACTED] not recall any torpedo tubes.

2. [REDACTED] three or four boats putting to sea and returning to harbor at irregular intervals.

3. Lithuanian civilians [REDACTED] flotillas of such boats often leave the harbor for MURAYA (56°32'N/21°00'E) - VILTSILS (57°23'N/21°35'E) and return from there.

4. Six to ten torpedo boats were observed in the western part of the commercial harbor **. Description: Length 200 to 230 feet, clearly set-off forecastle, shape of stem and stern could not be made out distinctly, two or three funnels, small bridge, mast with crow's nest. One 70 or 100-mm gun both on fore-castle and quarter-deck, between them AA gun.

5. [REDACTED] vessels with the following characteristics: *** Length 130 to 200 feet, square stern; sides higher than usual with torpedo vessels, dazzle painted; armament: forward and aft one gun of 70 to 80-mm caliber.

6. Dazzle-painted motorboats and tugs, varying in length between 33 and 66 feet.

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7. Six or seven ships rode at anchor 330 to 660 feet northeast of the entrance to the commercial harbor, about 160 feet from the bank of the river. Ø

a. Description: Length, at least 330 feet; very slender, high long forecastle; low poop; two raking funnels; two masts, the foremast being remarkably large; high bridge; both forward and aft two superposed guns of 100 to 150-mm caliber; between them AA guns. Shape of stern could not be determined.

b. These vessels were ex-German destroyers according to German ex-naval men.

25X1X 8. Near the shore of the lagoon, between the mouth of the Dange River and the commercial harbor, about 150 to 200 feet from the shore, [REDACTED] four to eight ships; ØØ

a. Description: Length between 160 and 200 feet; high forecastle with two rows of closely set bull's eyes, one above the other; large cruiser stern (a number of smaller ships had square sterns) with one row of closely set bull's eyes; long, wide bridge superstructure; one funnel.

25X1X b. [REDACTED] the armament or other details. However, 25X1X [REDACTED] there were only AA guns aside from one gun both on forecastle and quarterdeck (caliber 70 to 100mm).

c. Most of the ships had an accommodation ladder with a pinnace lying alongside.

25X1X 9. In the summer of 1948, [REDACTED] in the western part of the lagoon, six to eight vessels with landing ramps proceeding in the direction of the strip of the lagoon.

10. During the time of observation (May 1948 to 24 March 1949), [REDACTED] see any's bearines in the harbor of MEMEL.

25X1X [REDACTED] Comment:

25X1A * The reported boats are probably coastal patrol boats belonging to a flotilla in charge of the control of the coast between MEMEL and LEPAYA.

** These torpedo boats are possibly vessels of the "B"-class, but a definite identification is not possible.

Ø The described destroyers cannot be definitely identified. The description might apply to the ex-German destroyer 433, now Provornii. They are probably vessels of the Silnii-class. It does not seem probable that this group of destroyers is permanently stationed in MEMEL, as the required shipyard facilities are not available.

ØØ These vessels cannot be identified. They are probably special craft of the Soviet Navy.

*** The described vessels are probably minelayers.

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